

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Uwe HEITMANN et al.

Appl. No. 09/976,291

Filed: October 15, 2001

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS
FOR MAKING A TOBACCO ROD

Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Dionne A. WALLS

Confirmation No.: 1637

Atty. Docket No. 31653-175416 RK

Customer No.



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

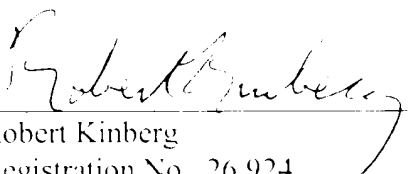
Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirement for restriction in the Office Action mailed on February 20, 2003,
Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group I, Claims 1-15 drawn to a method of building a
stream of smokable material. Further examination of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 12, 2003


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